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Coordinated Access to City Benefits

- Application Assistance for:
 - Energy Assistance
 - Utility Discount Program (UDP)*
 - LIHEAP through Central Area Motivation Program
 - Emergency Low Income Assistance (ELIA)*
 - Seattle Public Utilities Emergency Assistance Program (SPU-EAP)*
 - Project Share*
 - HomeWise Home Weatherization*
 - Child Care Subsidies
 - Seattle Child Care Assistance Program*

*These benefits are part of the City's Consolidated Application which is now being piloted.

Coordinated Access to State Benefits

- Application Assistance for:
 - Basic Food (food stamps)
 - Health Insurance
 - Apple Health for Kids
 - Pregnancy Medical
 - Washington Health
 - Child Care and Preschool
 - Working Connections Child Care
 - Head Start

Coordinated Access to Other Benefits

- Referrals to
 - Preschool Programs
 - ECEAP
 - Seattle Step Ahead Preschools
 - Bank on Seattle – King County
 - Seattle Jobs Initiative
 - Free Tax Preparation
 - Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing
 - WIC
 - Public/Community Medical and Dental Clinics
 - Take Charge Family Planning
 - 2-1-1
 - DSHS cash assistance programs, etc.
 - Child Care Resources
 - A variety of other agencies that provide assistance with basic needs

Coordinated Outreach

- PeoplePoint coordinates outreach strategies and locations with the following agencies/programs:
 - City Utility programs
 - City Child Care/Preschool programs
 - Public Health Access and Outreach team
 - Bank on Seattle – King County
 - Within Reach's Bridge to Basics volunteer program
 - United Way of King County's Free Tax sites

Eligibility and How to Apply

- Eligibility for individual benefits varies and gathering the necessary documentation can be cumbersome
 - Most benefits have an income threshold (varies between 100% - 300% FPL)
 - Most benefits have other eligibility criteria, such as residence (in or out of Seattle City limits, or City Light catchment area), citizenship, housing status, etc.
- PeoplePoint team members and our trained partners can guide an applicant through the application process

Utilization of Benefits

- In 2009 PeoplePoint conducted a Needs Assessment and estimated the percentage of eligible population enrolled in benefit programs:
 - Children's Health Insurance
 - Free – 72%
 - Low-Cost – 15%
 - Non-Citizen children – 55%
 - Basic Food: 38 %
 - Child Care Subsidies – under 52%
 - Utility Discount Program – 15%

Program Enrollments by PeoplePoint team

BENEFIT	2008	2009
Basic Food	480	1,080
Utility Discount Program	3,563	5,070
Energy Assistance (LIHEAP, ELIA, SPU-EAP, Project Share)	1,185	1,764
Child Care Subsidies	264	587
Preschool	37	138
Health Insurance	1,532	1,665

Trends

- Higher volume of calls
- More requests for low-cost housing options
- Higher number of first time applicants
- Applicants already in financial crisis before seeking assistance

Coming in 2011 – Statewide Benefits Portal

- PeoplePoint is working with the State of Washington to create a statewide benefits portal that will include City benefits.
 - Online eligibility screening and seamless Electronic Application process for both State and City benefits
 - Ability for customers to check their application status online

American Recovery and Re-investment Act

- PeoplePoint received a federal stimulus grant to provide capacity building to Seattle Community Based Organizations (CBO's) to help their customers access benefits
- Training is taking place this summer and participating CBO's will be among the first to use the Statewide Benefits Portal